Family History Capers

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CONTENTS

Washtenaw County Rural Schools History Series, Lyndon Part Two	Cyndy Steward and Marcia McCrary	23
Edgar Guy Family Bible Record		28
Oral History Interviewing Tips: Radio Shows	Jerome Drummond	29
Washtenaw County Farm Bureau Membership 1944	Cyndy Steward	34
Alvin Jay Pratt Family Bible Record		39
In Memoriam Retro Report	Joyce Mallory and Marcia McCrary	40

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WASHTENAW COUNTY RURAL SCHOOLS HISTORY SERIES

LYNDON TOWNSHIP RURAL SCHOOLS
(Part Two)
compiled by Cyndy Steward and Marcia McCrary

This is a continuation of the article begun in Capers v. 48 #1. The Editors also would like to share that at the GSWC Library, now located in the AADL Storage Building on Parkland Plaza, is a scrapbook for Lyndon Township of mostly Capers articles including some maps, and an 1888 Manual of Lyndon Township Schools.

Please note that we believe many of the students used Chapman's *History of Washtenaw County* for the information about a first schoolhouse in the township being erected in 1837. It is unclear to us at times whether they are speaking in general or about each district's first school. The same question holds true for early teachers such as John Yokum, Deliah Smith, and Inspector Henry Gorton.

While sorting out the district school numbers and combinations, we have updated our original school location chart as follows. (1941 is listed as an ending date where we found a history).

School Name	Section	School Number	Found in These Years	Location
Canfield	35	3	1851-1941	Waterloo Road west of M-52
Collins Plains	9	5	1856-1941	Boyce Road, west of Roepke
First School	18		1837	Edge of John Young's woods (Sec. 17)
Heatley	14	10	1864-pre1931	Hadley Road west of Goodband
Howe Fractional	32	14	Before 1880-By 1931	Waterloo Road, west of Bush Guinin Drive
Lakeview	11/12	10	After 1925-	Boyce Road? “On road from Dexter to Dansville”
Lyndon Center	21	11	1840s-1941	N. Territorial Rd east of M-52
McIntee	19	12	1838-1941	Cassidy and Beeman
Pumpkin College	23	4	1840?-1941	Off N. Territorial Rd, east of Island Lake Rd.

We also need to mention that we have located little about Heatley and Howe Schools, including no 1941 history. Heatley (#10) and Howe Fractional (#14) were gone by the 1931 directory. Lakeview first appears in the 1931 directory as district #10, but it is noted in the 1941 history that it “had no name” for a while.

Here are the only listings from School Directories or Manuals for Heatley and Howe that we found:
“Manual of the Public Schools of Washtenaw County, MI, Lyndon Township, for the year 1898-1899”
Howe District #14-Director: Gerald Dealy, Chelsea; Moderator: John Runciman; Assessor: John Walsh.
“*Washtenaw Co., Mi School Directory 1925-1926 Lyndon Twp*.”
Heatley #10-Director: Arthur J. May, Gregory; Moderator: Roy Hadley, RR#2 Gregory; Treasurer: John Sullivan, RR#2 Gregory; Teacher: Mrs. Veva Kalmbach, 2nd Gregory; President PTA: M. M. Kalmbach, Gregory.
Howe #14 Fractional-Director: Ernest E. Rowe, RR#4, Chelsea; Moderator: George A. McClure, RR#4 Chelsea; Treasurer: Dennis Guinan, RR#4, Chelsea; Teacher: Marie Guinan, 2nd, RR#4 Chelsea.
“*Washtenaw County, Michigan, School Directory 1931-1932”*
Howe School #14, Fr.-Director: Leo Guinan, Chelsea, R. 3; Moderator: George A. McClure, Chelsea, R. 3; Treasurer: Marie Guinan, Chelsea, R. 3; Teacher: Lodema Rowe Pixley, Co. Nor. Ex. '33, Munith.

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McIntee School #12 Fractional with Waterloo Township, Jackson County

"The first school in this community was built of logs in 1837, the same year in which Michigan was admitted to the Union. The district was then known as District # 14. It included on the southeast the Pendergast, the Moran, and the Hankard farms, which were located on what is known as the "Hog Back" or the Morain Divide which passes through southern Michigan. On the north by the Bott and Wessel farms. On the West by the Gildark farms and on the south by the Croman farms. The school was in section 20/21, on what in 1940 was the Stanfield Farm." [*Ed. Note: quoted from the 1941McKintee History*]

Between 1838 and 1839, the little log school was moved with a roller and sling to Section 19. A nickname for the school became "the Turkey Sling School" *[Ed. Note: read the actual 1941McKintee History for the interesting story behind this!*]

The families having children in school were the Wessels, Botts, Leekes, Giffords, Collins, Pendergasts, Morans and Hankards. This information was given to the students by Mrs. Jane (Wessel) Cooper, Mrs. Mary (Mullin) McIntee and Mr. Orson Beeman, Sr.

In 1840 a brick building was erected at the cross roads with bricks from the kiln of Washington Beeman. The families whose children attended the brick school house from 1840–1888 were as follows: "three families of Howletts, Horace Leeke, three families of Gortons, Chad Rowe, Tom Stanfield, Sidney Collins, Dell Jacox, Edwin Wessel, Nelly Yokum, Walter Botts, Clarks, Hankards, Washington Beeman, Ananias Croman, James Moran, Owen McIntee, John Pendergast, Hill and John K. Reilly". [*Ed. Note: quoted from the 1941McKintee History*]

The children were grouped according to the reader they were in. When you had completed the fifth reader, you would have finished your education to what is now known as the eighth grade.

School subjects and text books mentioned included *The National Speller* plus reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography. Playground equipment consisted of a slide, teeter and a ball diamond. A harmonica band was created in 1941, adding to the musical opportunities.

Ed Guinan, one of the first male teachers in the 1840 brick schoolhouse, a year or two later was lost at sea. In 1888, a new school house was erected and was still in use in 1940. "Those attending the new school built in 1888 were Coopers, Harrs, McIntees, Murphys, Rowes, Leekes, Gortons, Runcimans, Beemans, Hankards and Pendergasts. Later on, the children attending were Poraths, Robinsons, Bauers, Stones, Riethmillers, Charles Love, Lavon Winkle, Frenchs, McHenneys and Thornes" [*Ed. Note: quoted from the 1941McKintee History]*

The 1941 school history was compiled by Peggy Beeman and Mrs. Allen, her teacher.

"The school officials from 1858-1888 were Washington Beeman, Henry and Orville Gorton, Aaron Gorton, and John K. Yokum."

"1898-1899 District Manual of the Public Schools" McIntee #12-Director: Delancy Cooper, Waterloo; Moderator: Orville Gorton; Assessor: Orson Beeman.

"1925-1926 Washtenaw County School Directory" McIntee #12 Fractional-Director: Earl Beeman, Chelsea, R. 4; Moderator: Ed. W. Cooper, Munith, R. 3; Treasurer: Alva Beeman, Chelsea, R. 4; President of PTA: Edna Cooper, Munith.

"1931-32 Washtenaw County School Directory" McIntee #12 Fractional-Director: Earl Beeman, Chelsea, R. 4; Moderator: Edward W. Cooper, Munith, R. 3; Treasurer: Mrs. Helen Beeman, Chelsea, R. 4.

In 1940-41 the school board is Director: Earl Beeman; Treasurer: Edwin [Edward ?] Cooper; Moderator: Walter Harr.

The following table of teachers was prepared for use by the research team. It is not known if this list is complete or if the names are in chronological order of teaching. The list should be read down, not across.

Surname	Given Name		Surname	Given Name
YOKUM	John K. First teacher in 1837		ROCKWELL	May
LEEK	Charlotte		DEWEY	Sam
GUINAN	Ed		SAGER	Cora
GUINAN	Jean		MARION	Dwight
SHERMAN	Mary		KISCHE	Ida
BOWDISH	Wellington		HAMMOCK	Lizzie
COWEN	J. B.		ARTZ	Howard
EMMERICK	Henry		MCINTEE-COLLINS	Irene
KING	Aunt Rosy		ISHMAN	Mrs. Effie (1925)
HOWLETT	Burt (1888)		BRYAN	Miss
BASIL	Anne		KALAMBACH	Veva, Mrs. Max (1931)
FLAGLER	Jesse		ALLEN	Mrs. Cecil V. (1940–41)

[Ed Note: Years above are from various sources]

SCHOLARS OF McINTEE SCHOOL, Lyndon Township, 1941

[Ed. Note: Some of the below student names came from identified photos in the 1941McKintee history]

NAME		AGE in 41	YEAR	Harmonica Band
ALLEN, Cecil F.., Mrs.	teacher		1941	
BAUER, Billy	5th grade		1941	
BAUER, Dorothy	6th grade	Age 13	1941	Yes
BAUER, Mary Ann	3rd grade	Age 09	1941	
BAUER, Richard		Age 14	1941	Yes
BAUER, Shirley	Beginner	Age 06	1941	
BAUER, Thomas		Age 12	1941	
BAUER, William		Age 11	1941	
BEEMAN, Alva			Abt 1900	
BEEMAN, Earl			Abt 1900	
BEEMAN, Peggy	8th grade	Age 13	1941	Yes-pianist
BEEMAN, Peggy			1937	
COOPER, Ed			Abt 1900	
FRENCH, Milton			1937	
GORTON, Mary			Abt 1900	
GORTON, Sarah			Abt 1900	
HAMMOCK, Lizzie			Abt 1900	
HANKARD, Alice			Abt 1900	
HANKARD, Emmet			Abt 1900	
HARR, Donald			1940	
HARR, Donald			1937	
HARR, Olive			Abt 1900	

HARR, Walter			Abt 1900	
LeVAN, Duane			1937	
LeVAN, June			1937	
LOVE, Charles	3rd grade		1941	Yes
McHENNEY, Josephine	7th grade	Age 15	1941	Yes
McHENNEY, Josephine			1937	
McHENNEY, Josephine	6th grade		1941	
McHENNEY, Junior	8th grade		1938	
McHENNEY, Junior			1937	
McINTEE, Herbert			Abt 1900	
McINTEE, Irene			Abt 1900	
McINTEE, Rose			Abt 1900	
PENDERGAST, Jim			Abt 1900	
PENDERGAST, Leo			Abt 1900	
PORATH, Donald			1940	
PORATH, Donald			1937	
PORATH, Royce			1937	
PORATH, Royce	7th grade		1938	
PORATH, Warren			1940	
PORATH, Warren			1937	
RIETHMILLER, Gorton			1941	Yes
RIETHMILLER, Sarah			1941	
ROBINSON, Betty			1937	
ROBINSON, Francis			1937	
ROBINSON, Gilbert			1937	
ROBINSON, Joe			1937	
ROBINSON, Lewis			1937	
ROBINSON, Rosetta			1937	
ROWE, George	Teacher		Abt 1900	
ROWE, Mable			Abt 1900	
ROWE, Madelyn			1937	
ROWE, Suzy			Abt 1900	
RUNCIMAN, Edna			Abt 1900	
STONE, Ada Ruth		Age 11	1941	Yes
STONE, Bill	7th grade	Age 13	1941	Yes
THORNE, Bud		Age 10	1941	Yes
THORNE, Bud			1937	
WINKLE, Lavon			1937,1938	

Pumpkin College

Pumpkin was one of the schools Julius Haab highlighted in his talk and he mentioned several stories of how the school got its name.

The original school was log, located on the Island Lake Road, at the turn near the south end of the Lake. The building was on the left side of the road, as one goes north. Thought to be built in 1840. In 1941, it was located just off N. Territorial Road, about two miles west of North Lake Methodist Church, and seven miles from Chelsea, just east of Island Lake on a short road running almost parallel to the N. Territorial Rd.

The school's drinking water early on came from a spring which is still there but no longer used in 1941 no longer used. Pails of water were brought from the spring, after removing the black snakes.

Entertainment included dancing, humming, and using imaginary instruments. Games on the playground were "Duck on the Rock" and sliding on the hill in the winter on homemade sleds. Also at noon, swimming in Island Lake was popular, with different areas for the boys (who swam in their overalls or nothing) and the girls (in their dresses).

Some early settlers between 1837-1849 were: Francis H. Burkhardt, James Gorman, William R. Purchase, John Twomley, and Walter Webb.

The teachers boarded around during the earlier days. They stayed a week for each student in the household. The first salary recorded in this district was $175 for 5 months in 1882. Some early teachers were younger than their pupils, they had to be 17 years old or more.

The author of the 1941 history of Pumpkin College was Flo Ann Longworth, 8th grade, age 13.

The following LYNDON TOWNSHIP teacher list is reprinted here with last names first from *Family History Capers v. 9 #1, p. 19*: "Some teachers of School District #4" [Pumpkin College].

The original list was taken from contracts in the Record Book of School District #4 and used with permission of Mrs. William Hogan, Chelsea, Michigan. Note names are in chronological order, in two columns reading down.

Name	Year	Name	Year
CLARK, Orman	1881	NASH, Florence	1912
HAGAN, James	1882	BOYCE, Florence	1913
BELLERS, Hattie	1882	MILLER, Blanche	1914, 1915
GREEN, Walter	1884	NAEKEL, Eleanor	1917
KALMBACH, Mary	1888	OESTERLE, Frieda	1918
MILLER, Charles W.	1894	KALMBACH, Veva	1919
SAVAGE, Alice	1902	WRIGHT, May E.	1920
WALSH, Minnie	1906	YOUNG, Agnes	1922
HEATLEY, Esther	1907, 1908	ELLSWORTH, Mabel	1923
HUMMEL, Hazel	1909	TAYLOR, Ruth	1924
STOFER, Hattie	1910	CASBURN, Lucille	1928
FULLER, Grace	1911	BREINER, Florence A.	1930

Other teachers mentioned were Mrs. Ida Collins Palmer, the first teacher in the 1873 building.

From the1925-1926 Directory we learned that Blanche Wirkner was the teacher. The School Directory in 1931-1932 lists Lucile Camburn from Gregory as the teacher. The teacher in that same building in 1941 was Beatrice Hawkins.

Published in *Family History Capers*, v. 36 #3, p. 52 was the list of officers in Lyndon from the School Directory of 1925-1926 of Pumpkin College #4-Director: Homer Stoffer, R.R. #3, Chelsea; Moderator: William Fox, R.R. #3, Chelsea; Treasurer: Andrew J. Greening, R.R.#3, Chelsea.

In 1941 there were the following 17 students:

LONGWORTH, David	REAMES, William	STOFER, Robert
LONGWORTH, Flo Ann	ROBERTS, Donna	VAN RIPER, Bill
REAMES, Carol	ROBERTS, Dorothy	VAN RIPER, Ellen
REAMES, Delores	ROBERTS, Frederick	VAN RIPER, Mary
REAMES, Richard	ROBERTS, Mildred	VAN RIPER, Nancy
REAMES, Theodore	ROBERTS, Noah	VAN RIPER, Patricia

This concludes the materials we have on Lyndon Township Rural Schools. In the next issue the series will cover Bridgewater Rural Schools.

[To be continued]

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EDGAR GUY FAMILY BIBLE RECORD

This Family Bible is located at the Historic Hack House Museum located in Milan, Michigan. The Milan Historical Society kindly donated this family record to the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County for the Bible Record Registry and granted permission for it to be published.

> *The Complete Domestic Bible, Containing the Old and New Testaments, Together with the Apocrypha, Concordance, and Psalms of David in Metre*. Domestic Bible Publishing Company. [*no city or date on copy*]

[*Editor Note: The original handwritten record did not have headings.*]

Name	*Place of Birth*	*Date of Birth*	*Date of Marriage*
FATHER: Edgar E. Guy	Nunda N.Y.	Sept 24 1855	October 30th 1880
MOTHER: Leonora H. Guy	York Michigan	Aug 2nd 1863	
CHILD: Mildred J. Guy	York Michigan	Nov 28th 1882	

GSWC Bible Records Registry

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWING TIPS: RADIO SHOWS

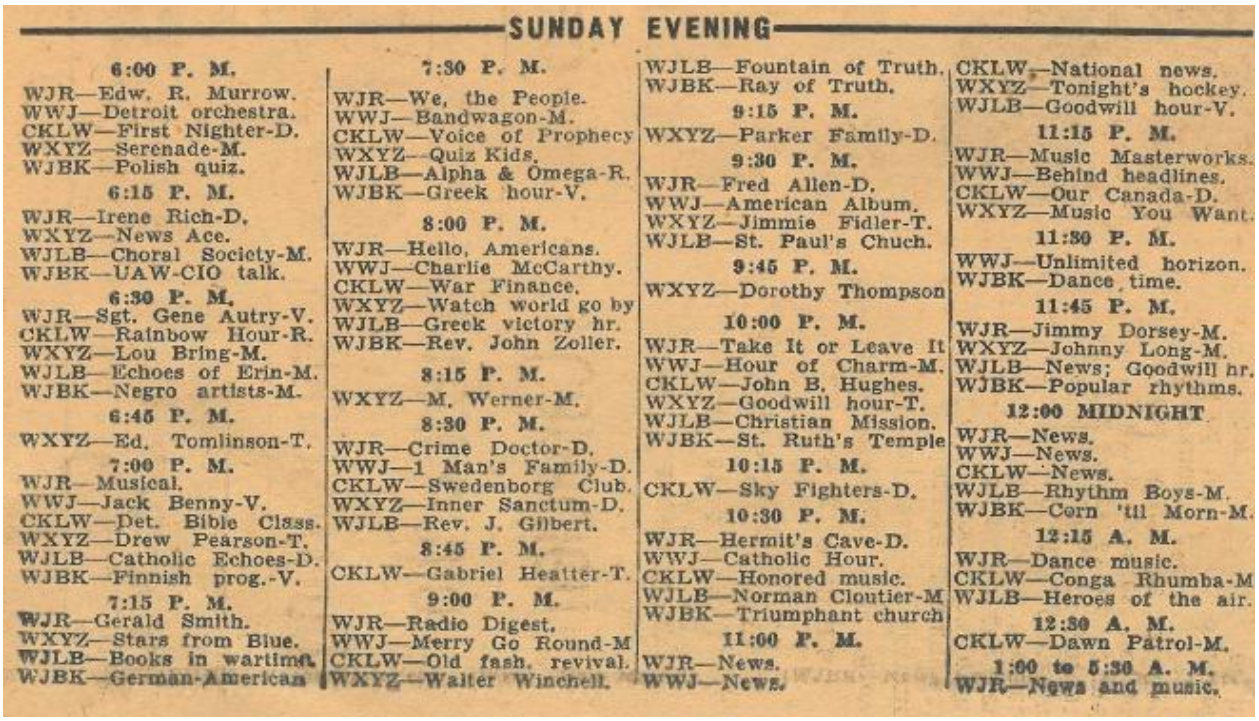
By Jerome Drummond

[*Ed. Note: Part of a Continuing Series on Oral History Interviewing*]

When you are choosing your oral history interview focal points, an important area to cover is print and electronic media, which your ancestors used for entertainment and information. People have their circle of friends and family, but they also participate in their society.

In the pre-radio world before 1920, entertainment was to be found downtown in the theaters and dance halls, in the movie houses which the theatres became, or at home with the Sunday dinner guests, family picnics, storytelling, the sing-along and the player piano. The transition from homespun entertainment like sing-alongs to professional entertainment in media sucked the air out of making your own fun. It did leave us, however, with an insight into the mind and taste of our forebears.

As radio grew and became more structured the larger regional newspapers would print the radio listings for the week, and it was the nature of households that a regular schedule was arrived at and accepted. A household in the 1930s would likely have one radio and a household in the 1950s would likely have one black & white television set. Who decided what programming was heard or watched developed according to who had authority; usually beginning with the head of the household and spouse.



SUNDAY EVENING

6:00 P. M.
WJR—Edw. R. Murrow.
WWJ—Detroit orchestra.
CKLW—First Nighter-D.
WXYZ—Serenade-M.
WJBK—Polish quiz.

6:15 P. M.
WJR—Irene Rich-D.
WXYZ—News Ace.
WJLB—Choral Society-M.
WJBK—UAW-CIO talk.

6:30 P. M.
WJR—Sgt. Gene Autry-V.
CKLW—Rainbow Hour-R.
WXYZ—Lou Bring-M.
WJLB—Echoes of Erin-M.
WJBK—Negro artists-M.

6:45 P. M.
WXYZ—Ed. Tomlinson-T.

7:00 P. M.
WJR—Musical.
WWJ—Jack Benny-V.
CKLW—Det. Bible Class.
WXYZ—Drew Pearson-T.
WJLB—Catholic Echoes-D.
WJBK—Finnish prog.-V.

7:15 P. M.
WJR—Gerald Smith.
WXYZ—Stars from Blue.
WJLB—Books in wartime.
WJBK—German-American

7:30 P. M.
WJR—We, the People.
WWJ—Bandwagon-M.
CKLW—Voice of Prophecy
WXYZ—Quiz Kids.
WJLB—Alpha & Omega-R.
WJBK—Greek hour-V.

8:00 P. M.
WJR—Hello, Americans.
WWJ—Charlie McCarthy.
CKLW—War Finance.
WXYZ—Watch world go by
WJLB—Greek victory hr.
WJBK—Rev. John Zoller.

8:15 P. M.
WXYZ—M. Werner-M.

8:30 P. M.
WJR—Crime Doctor-D.
WWJ—1 Man's Family-D.
CKLW—Swedenborg Club.
WXYZ—Inner Sanctum-D.
WJLB—Rev. J. Gilbert.

8:45 P. M.
CKLW—Gabriel Heatter-T.

9:00 P. M.
WJR—Radio Digest.
WWJ—Merry Go Round-M
CKLW—Old fash. revival.
WXYZ—Walter Winchell.
WJLB—Fountain of Truth.
WJBK—Ray of Truth.

9:15 P. M.
WXYZ—Parker Family-D.

9:30 P. M.
WJR—Fred Allen-D.
WWJ—American Album.
WXYZ—Jimmie Fidler-T.
WJLB—St. Paul's Chuch.

9:45 P. M.
WXYZ—Dorothy Thompson

10:00 P. M.
WJR—Take It or Leave It
WWJ—Hour of Charm-M.
CKLW—John B. Hughes.
WXYZ—Goodwill hour-T.
WJLB—Christian Mission.
WJBK—St. Ruth's Temple

10:15 P. M.
CKLW—Sky Fighters-D.

10:30 P. M.
WJR—Hermit's Cave-D.
WWJ—Catholic Hour.
CKLW—Honored music.
WJLB—Norman Cloutier-M
WJBK—Triumphant church

11:00 P. M.
WJR—News.
WWJ—News.
CKLW—National news.
WXYZ—Tonight's hockey.
WJLB—Goodwill hour-V.

11:15 P. M.
WJR—Music Masterworks.
WWJ—Behind headlines.
CKLW—Our Canada-D.
WXYZ—Music You Want.

11:30 P. M.
WWJ—Unlimited horizon.
WJBK—Dance time.

11:45 P. M.
WJR—Jimmy Dorsey-M.
WXYZ—Johnny Long-M.
WJLB—News; Goodwill hr.
WJBK—Popular rhythms.

12:00 MIDNIGHT
WJR—News.
WWJ—News.
CKLW—News.
WJLB—Rhythm Boys-M.
WJBK—Corn 'til Morn-M.

12:15 A. M.
WJR—Dance music.
CKLW—Conga Rhumba-M
WJLB—Heroes of the air.

12:30 A. M.
CKLW—Dawn Patrol-M.

1:00 to 5:30 A. M.
WJR—News and music.

From *The Detroit Times* November 14, 1942

In the Drummond household popular programs listed here were The Jack Benny Show, Charlie McCarthy, The Inner Sanctum, and The Hermit's Cave. Popular with my wife's family were Edwin R. Murrow, Walter Winchell, and Fred Allen. Both households probably listened to Jimmy Dorsey if they stayed up that late. My family would mention entertainment programs and my wife's family would mention news programs if asked what they liked. I would say that the difference between the households, as reflected in their radio tastes, was that my wife's parents were ten years younger than mine and had advanced educations.

The great draw of radio was that it only cost the one-time price of the radio for admission to a wide range of content that could be enjoyed in the comfort of the home. In the schedule reprinted above you can see that the categories of programming are similar to what we have today: comedy, drama, music, news, opinion, and sports. So, instead of traveling to a theater, music hall, and ballpark one only had to turn on the radio and tune in the desired station. Five stations were locally available in the Detroit area, which greatly expanded the listener's choice, including WWJ, dating back to 1920, and WJBK, a Detroit station which got its start in Ypsilanti.

What is different in the radio schedule above to what came later, particularly as for television, were programs which were dedicated to specific ethnic groups, religious groups, and of course coverage of World War II. The Detroit area, like any large American city, had multiple ethnic and religious neighborhoods, to which advertisers wished to appeal, so programming was developed for them.

By the latter 1960s radio shows were all but done and television would sweep them away, but for our purposes nothing changes, because the larger regional newspaper would print *the television listings for the day*. It is important to remember that from the 1940s through to the 1970s television and radio stations were often independently owned and could choose to run new programs from the network with which they were affiliated, syndicated programs, or programs they locally produced. They were much more a part of the local community. *It is therefore vitally important* that you check the local listings and not just a general media history for the year and time slot in which the radio or television series originated.

As an example from our own time, if you review the history of *Saturday Night Live* you will see that the series began in the fall of 1975. In Traverse City at that time, the locally owned NBC affiliate refused to air *SNL* after Chevy Chase began portraying President Gerald Ford as a bumbling oaf, substituting instead a local production which showed old horror movies hosted by a local resident with a minor Hollywood history. Readers from the metro Detroit area may recall *Bill Kennedy at the Movies;* this was a similarly-styled program.

Back in the day I would go to the Harlan Hatcher Library in Ann Arbor, to read the *Detroit Free Press* on microfilm and find the radio listings, then sit down for an interview and inquire about the typical fare in the household. Popular shows amongst my relatives were *Fibber McGee and Molly, The Hermit's Cave, Amos & Andy, The Inner Sanctum, The Story of Mary Marlin, The Shadow, Burns & Allen, The Jack Benny Show,* and *Edgar Bergen & Charlie McCarthy.* My father's sister, when she was a student at Michigan State Normal School (EMU), used to listen to the *Inner Sanctum* with her girlfriends. The ghost story, as it turns out, was very popular in the Drummond family at least as far back as the 1930s, based on other oral histories.

Two large radio presences in the 1930s were Charles Coughlin and Franklin Roosevelt. If your ancestor favored one or the other this would be an excellent clue to their politics. When I refer to my parents' political ideas in my family history, I reprint word-for-word FDR's nomination acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in 1932. There is little in it that my parents would dispute – they were New Deal Democrats through and through.

My father's father though favored Father Charles Coughlin, a controversial Catholic priest at one time associated with WJR radio, who later created his own show known for its anti-Communism, anti-Semetism, and various ideas about how to revive from the Great Depression. It was a favorite with working-class Irish Catholics. When he explicitly turned on President Roosevelt however that was the end of his following in the Drummond household. You should expect that your ancestors had opinions and some of them may not be yours. Don't go down the easy path; make an attempt to understand your ancestors and the times in which they lived.

Father Charles Coughlin, priest of the Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak had a considerable influence among those struggling in the Great Depression. It is estimated that his audience numbered about 30 million people, mostly Irish Catholics. Father Coughlin was enthusiastic at first with Franklin Delano Roosevelt and sought to influence his followers to vote for FDR. Like Huey Long and others his influence was magnified by radio. Coughlin's downfall was in accusing Roosevelt of aiding Communists. Everyone realized what the power of radio was and learning who and what your ancestor followed provides an insight little available elsewhere.

Photo Library of Congress

Recreating the media aspect of the household is vital to establishing what your ancestors likely thought about and how they viewed the world. Below is a list of news commentators appearing in the radio schedule above and some ideas about them that may, by extension, be informative. Did your ancestor living in 1942 follow any of these?

Edward R. Murrow gained fame as a war correspondent with live broadcasts from Europe for CBS. He established a national reputation as a pro-FDR and anti-Senator Joseph McCarthy newsman and played a part in the senator's downfall in 1954. He was very popular though his delivery and analysis were very clinical; one didn't look to Edward Murrow for warmth.

Gerald K. Smith was a founder of the America First Party and was an isolationist, anti-semite, and anti-communist. He ran in the Republican Primary for a U.S. Senate seat but lost. He was an associate of Charles Coughlin and Huey Long.

Walter Winchell was anti-communist, anti-isolationist, anti-Charles Coughlin and anti-Gerald K. Smith. He was friendly with Senator Joseph McCarthy and J. Edgar Hoover. He was also a purveyor of gossip concerning public figures.

Gabriel Heatter (pronounced like "heater") whose catchphrase was "There's good news tonight", reported on positive, uplifting stories and news.

Drew Pearson was pro-FDR and anti-isolationist. He was a one-time writing partner of Robert S. Allen who was identified as a Soviet agent in the early 1930s. Pearson wrote the book *Washington Merry-Go-Round* with Allen which was highly critical of the Herbert Hoover administration. He was opposed to Senator Joseph McCarthy, and it was the case that some of Pearson's associations were with Communists or Soviet agents.

Entertainment can indicate or at least suggest something about your subject. Did they like the highbrow humor of *Burns & Allen* or the lower brow humor of *Fibber McGee & Molly*? Did they enjoy *Amos & Andy* and what that may imply? *Mr. First Nighter* may indicate an interest in the theater, in movies or both. Programs like the *Lux Theater* and *Mercury Theater* often featured the first run of what would soon be a nationally released movie, often with the same actors. Did your ancestor enjoy opera, light opera, western music, or swing music? These are clues to background and outlook.

Sports reporting was very different in the early years of radio. Neither of my parents (my father born in 1912 and my mother in 1920) ever got used to modern sportscasting. My mother explained her preference:

> *"I like baseball and when I used to come home from school in the afternoon there wasn't anybody else there because I had early hours, so I used to listen to the Tiger baseball. They had an announcer [Ty Tyson on WWJ] who used to talk about the fans. And when somebody would hit a homerun he'd say, 'Oh the fella's in the bleachers are throwing out the confetti again. That loooong confetti,' which of course was toilet paper.*
>
> *He was not like these stupes they have nowadays that yak yak yak. The guy was up at the bat and you had to wait for the pitcher to wind up. He didn't fill that [airtime] full of statistics or what this guy did last year or anything like that. You just sat there and waited. And then he'd come on and say, 'Strike three!' or 'There goes a single' or something like that. It was a different way of doing things."*

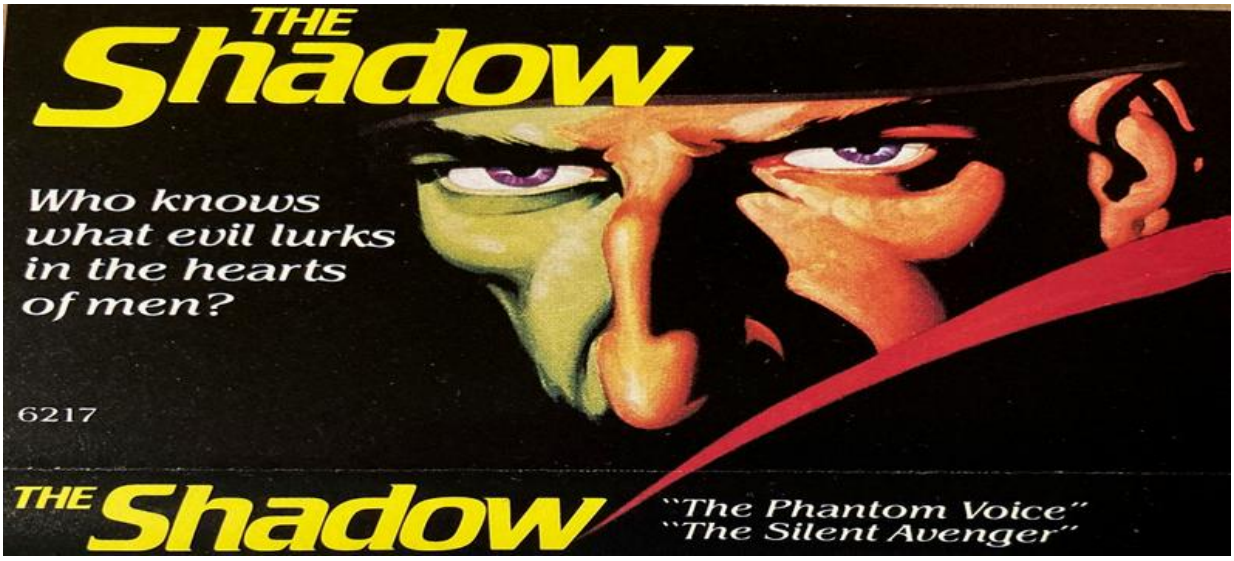
The first radio in my mother's household was a crystal set that ran on a battery which my grandfather Lusignan, who was an electrician, put together, but after his death in 1925 a relative purchased for the family an Atwater Kent; a big radio in a wooden cabinet. The Ypsilanti Historical Museum has examples you can see of both radio types. When the family moved to a new apartment most of the furniture was sold for mere peanuts but the Atwater Kent was highly valued. As my mother recalled:

> *"And Eve and I took that radio over when we had to move out of the house. We took that radio with us and Eve and I moved it on a table, and we went from Gregorie Street near Kercheval over to LeMay and Jefferson, which as you know is a long way. She was pulling it [the radio was on a table on a play wagon] and I was holding the radio on this thing and when we got there we had an apartment on the second floor, and so help me, she carried that radio on her back up those two flights of stairs with me holding it to keep it from falling off. Oh God! And Mother brought her pots and pans over, walking, in suitcases and I can remember her coming in one night, she was crying, and both her hands were frozen to these suitcases that she was carrying."*

The soap opera is another place to dig for values. In journals and newspapers of the past, stories would be presented in serial form, that is, a whole larger story was broken down into segments and published over several issues. These were a popular draw because they kept you waiting in suspense and happy to buy another issue to continue the story. They also were a convenient space-filler for a publisher in a slow news cycle. Harriet Beecher Stowe, Arthur Conan Doyle, Charles Dickens, Jules Verne, Alexandre Dumas and many authors famous or obscure were writers of serials. This same idea is a parent of the soap opera.

My grandmother Clara Drummond was particularly fond of *The Story of Mary Marlin* which ran from 1934 to 1945 and was very popular in the latter 1930s. Mary Marlin's husband was an attorney in Cedar Springs, Iowa who had affairs with various women, which was the basis of the show, until he won a seat in the United States Senate, and he moved with Mary to Washington, D. C.. On a trip to Russia Joe's plane crashed somewhere in Asia and he was thought to be dead. He actually survived with amnesia and spent the rest of the series trying to find out who he was and how to get back to the States. In the meantime, and this is the important part of the story, the Governor of Iowa appointed Mary to fill Joe's seat in the Senate to the end of the term, and she was sweet on the President!

In other words, the heroine become a United States Senator, this airing fourteen years after women won the right to vote. That was why it was so popular with a female audience and with my grandmother Drummond, who was a dominating, self-assured and ambitious woman as attested to by other evidence I have. The American illustrator Howard Chandler Christy created a character called "The Christy Girl" who was sophisticated, intelligent, capable, educated and fearless. My grandmother Drummond was a Christy Girl. My grandfather Drummond made the money but his wife ran the show.



The Great American Audio Corp.

There are several companies around the United States that offer "old time radio" recordings for the interested. This cassette tape I purchased years ago from NPR when I became interested in the subject, but of course modern companies offer shows on CD or by streaming. You also may find offerings in your area currently broadcast on, of course, radio.

Although you may not care to go to the lengths that I did, there is value to obtaining recordings of old radio shows mentioned by the interviewee. I purchased a number from old time radio companies, including *The Mercury Theater* (the brainchild of its host, Orson Welles), *The Lux Theater* (sponsored by Lux Soap), *The Shadow, The Jack Benny Show, Fibber McGee and Molly,* etc. I played some of these for my mother and she had the same reaction that I have when I watch old television shows that I saw the first time around – they're dated. My mother, who had spoken in glowing terms about Jack Benny and Fibber McGee, was disappointed in listening to them, because they were as she remembered them and yet not as she remembered them. Then they had been entertaining and now they only seemed corny. The entertainment world moved on as did public taste and my mother. Even so, just listening to them brought up fresh memories to spur conversation.

In the time that these shows were in swing the United States entered into and executed what my mother's generation saw as their greatest achievement – victory in the Second World War – and with the end of that war came the end of the world of before. Through the Great Depression and the war few homes were built in the United States. When our troops, over a period of years, came home real estate was at a premium in cities like Detroit where my parents grew up. They would have liked to have stayed there but housing was out of reach, and that set the stage for the Levittown subdivisions that came. The first house that my parents could buy, the one I was born into, was in Mt. Clemens, in a new subdivision which offered four models of homes to purchase, for $12,500.

The home in Mt. Clemens my parents moved into, the home in Redford Township that my Aunt Eve's family moved into, and the home that my sister's family moved into in St. Clair Shores in 1970, have almost identical floorplans with almost identical space. Even today when I drive down my sister's street, I look for the fire hydrant next to her lot so that I'm sure to pull into the correct driveway. My family would never return to the city and the era of the radio would slowly fade away. The world was forever changed.

Jerome Drummond *is a frequent contributor and an Editor of the Family History Capers. He plans more chapters in this discussion on doing oral interviews*!

"Washtenaw County Farm Bureau and Washtenaw Junior Farm Bureau Membership 1944" (Part Two)

Transcribed by Cyndy Steward, 2024

(Continued from Vol. 48 No. 1, pgs. 16-19)

Part two of the series begins with the Washtenaw County Farm Bureau Officers and Directors, followed by members. The directory alphabetically lists each member's name, address and Rural Route number grouped by township. Four Wayne County Townships and six Monroe County members are included. "Members of Washtenaw Junior Farm Bureau" completes the booklet. Refer to part one of the series for additional information concerning the layout of the booklet. Again, we thank David Doss for his contribution, and the Washtenaw County Farm Bureau Board of Directors for their permission and support in the sharing of the information in this booklet.

Officers

Last, First	Address/Township	Officer Title
CLEMENTS, F. R.	Saline	President
AMRHEIN, A. H.	Ypsilanti	Vice-President
GILL, Gordon	Ypsilanti	Secretary-Treasurer
BASSSETT, Oral	Ann Arbor	Director
BRADLEY, Clifford	Dexter	Director
MAST, Waster [sic.](Walter)	Dexter	Director
ALBER, Charles J.	Manchester	Director
SAVERY, Coda	Plymouth	Director
GALL, Albert	Saline	Director
BREINING, Clyde M.	Ypsilanti	Community Group Organizer
AMRHEIN, Albert H.	Ypsilanti	1944 Campaign Chairman
GALPIN, Ivan, Mrs.	Ann Arbor	County Hospitalization Agent
SMALLEY, Ray, Mrs.	Ypsilanti	Editor County Farm News

Members

Ann Arbor Township

Last, First	Address/Township	Rural Route Number
BOLGOS, Brothers	Ann Arbor	5
BRAUN, A. J., Mrs.	Ann Arbor	5
BRAUN, Carl W., Estate	Ann Arbor	5
FORSHEE, Jane	Ann Arbor	5
FREDERICK, Edward W., and son	Ann Arbor	5
GLASS, E. J.	Ann Arbor	5
HAAS, Louis	Ann Arbor	5
HERTER, Selma	Ann Arbor	6
JETTER, William	Ann Arbor	5
KAPP, Ormund E.	Ann Arbor	5
KAPPLER, W. H.	Ann Arbor	5
KLUCK, Maxwell	Ann Arbor	5
KOCH, Raymond L.	Ann Arbor	5
LATSON, E. W.	Ann Arbor	1
MARTIN, Chester I.	Ann Arbor	5

WOODSIDE, Nelson E.	Ann Arbor	5
MILLER, Walter and son	Ann Arbor	4
MULREED, C. E.	Ann Arbor	5
OSLER, H. S.	Ann Arbor	2
OULMANN, Henry J.	1311 W. Huron St. Ann Arbor	blank
PARKER, Floyd W.	Ann Arbor	5
POUCHER, R. H.	Ann Arbor	5
PROCHNOW, Thad C.	Ann Arbor	5
SCHMIDT, John	Ann Arbor	5
SCHNIRRING, Julius	303 Wilton Street, Ann Arbor	blank
Wash. Jr Farm Bureau c/o Selma Herter	Ann Arbor	6
WEBER, Otto	Ann Arbor	5
WUSTER, Ray F.	Ann Arbor	5
WOLTER, Hugo D.	Ann Arbor	1
ZEEB, Walter H.	Ann Arbor	5

Augusta Township

Last Name, First	**Address/Township**	**Rural Route Number**
ACKERMAN, John T.	Ypsilanti	1
BAKEEIS, Jacob	Milan	1
BEVIER, Charles A.	Ypsilanti	1
BOBICZ, John & Sons	Milan	1
BREINING, Clyde M.	Ypsilanti	1
BUNTON, Clyde	Willis	1
BUNTON, Lee	Willis	1
BURKHARDT, Clarence & Sons	Milan	1
CAMPBELL, Jennings	Ypsilanti	1
CARTER, Jennings	Whittaker	Box 1
COLLYER, Eugene	Willis	1
COSNER, J. A.	Milan	1
COX, David	Willis	1
DAY, George	Ypsilanti	1
DEJANOVICH, Stojan	Willis	1
DIBBLE, Sherman	Ypsilanti	1
DYSINGER, Floyd	Milan	1
ELKA, A. W. & Son	Willis	1
FAULHABER, Loran	Willis	1
GARROD, Robert F.	Willis	1
GRABACH, Daniel	Ypsilanti	1
HABICHT, Harry	Milan	1
HARDY, W. W.	Willis	1
HEARL, Martin & Sons	Ypsilanti	1
HEATH, Ora & Son	Milan	1
HEWENS, Clinton J. & Son	Ypsilanti	1
HINZMANN, L. J.	Ypsilanti	1
HOVETTER, Everett	Willis	1
JONES, John	Ypsilanti	1
JONES, Woodrow	Ypsilanti	1

KARNATZ, Leonard	Milan	1
KINNICUTT, Grace	Willis	1
KINNICUTT, Myrtle	Willis	1
LINNENKUGEL, Charles	Milan	1
MALEITZKE, Walter	Milan	1
MALESKI, Vincent	Willis	1
McCRONE, Don	Milan	1
MULL, Nelson	Ypsilanti	1
NEUMAN, Walter	Ypsilanti	1
OERTHER, Frederick	Milan	1
PATTERSON, Clarence	Ypsilanti	1
PINTER, Joseph, Jr.	Ypsilanti	1
POWELL, Blaine	Milan	1
POWELL, Rae	Milan	1
PRILL, Alfred O.	Ypsilanti	1
REED, Clarence E.	Ypsilanti	1
RISCH, Al	Milam	1
RIGGS, Harold, Mrs.	Ypsilanti	1
RUSSELL, Kenneth	Willis	1
SALTERS, Harvey	Willis	1
SCHECHTER, Fred & Son	Willis	1
SCHECHTER, George & Son	Willis	1
SCHROEN, Jacob	Ypsilanti	1
SEARFASS, Orie M.	Milan	1
SEMRAU, Arthur	Ypsilanti	1
SQUIRES, Lynn	Milan	1
TALLADAY, J. W.	Milan	1
TALLADAY, Lee J.	Milan	1
TALLADAY, Rex	Milan	1
TOWLER, Frank	Ypsilanti	1
TOWLER, Robert	Milan	1
TROCHET, Paul	Ypsilanti	1
VEDDER, C. S.	Milan	1
WANTY, Olen R.	Milan	1
WANTY, Robert F.	Ypsilanti	1
WANTY, T. R.	Ypsilanti	1
WASEN, Edward C.	Milan	1
WEGIENKA, Vincent	Ypsilanti	1
WILBER, Fred	Milan	1
WRIGHT, Earl	Willis	1
WRIGHT, George	Ypsilanti	1
WRIGHT, John	Ypsilanti	1
WRIGHT, Orlo H.	Ypsilanti	1

Bridgewater Township

Last, First	**Address/Township**	**Rural Route Number**
AHRENS, William, Jr.	Manchester	3
ALBER, Charles	Manchester	3

ALLEN, E. M.	Clinton	1
ANGLEMEYER, Charles	Clinton	1
ANGLEMEYER, Ed	Clinton	1
ASHTON, Frank W.	Manchester	3
BEACH, Hubert	Clinton	1
BIENICK, Benny	Saline	1
BINNS, Elmer J.	Clinton	1
BLAISDELL, E. L.	Manchester	3
BLAISDELL, E. L., Jr.	Manchester	3
BLUMHARDT, Fred	Clinton	1
BOETTNER, L. G.	Bridgewater	Box 2
BRAUN, Fred E.	Saline	1
BUDAY, Eugene J.	Manchester	3
BURMEISTER, Carl	Saline	1
BURMEISTER, Ed	Manchester	3
BUSS, Erwin	Saline	1
DAYSS, Edward	Manchester	3
GEIGER, Walter C.	Clinton	1
GRAY, Orlando	Manchester	3
HAUESSLER, Edwin C.	Clinton	1
HOPPAL, Kolumbach	Saline	1
HOWEISEN, H. F.	Clinton	1
HUGHES, Russel	Manchester	3
KERSHNER, William B.	Clinton	1
KIDD, Maynard	Manchester	3
HATCHERY, Klager	Bridgewater	blank
KLAGER, Sigmund	Saline	1
KNIGHT, Charles C.	Clinton	1
KNIGHT, Clyde L.	Clinton	3
KNICKERBOCKER, Harry A.	Manchester	3
KRZYZANICK, Anthony	Manchester	3
LOWERY, Roy	Manchester	3
LUCKHARDT, Linden	Clinton	1
MAHRLE, Albert	Manchester	3
MANN, E. G. & Sons	Bridgewater	blank
MAULT, Wilber	Saline	1
McCOLLUM, Charles	Clinton	1
McCULLY, Foster	Clinton	1
MILLER, Otto B.	Manchester	2
NEBLO, William G.	Clinton	1
NORCROSS, John	Clinton	1
O'DELL, L. M.	Clinton	1
PRATT, James	Manchester	3
RANDALL, Edgar	Clinton	1
RAWSON, Walter J.	Manchester	3
SCHULTZ, Russell	Manchester	3
STURDEVANT, E. L.	Manchester	1
TIRB, Lawrence	Clinton	1
TIRB, LeRoy	Clinton	1

TROLZ, Lewis	Manchester	3
WEIDMEYER, Armin C.	Manchester	3
ZICK, Valentine	Manchester	3

Dexter Township

Last, First	Address/Township	Rural Route Number
BESSEY, John	Dexter	2
CARTTER, Harold W.	Dexter	2
COLBY, Grover, Jr.	Dexter	1
DOLETZKY, Earl	Dexter	2
EISENBEISER, William & Sons	Chelsea	2
FISCHER, John & Son	Dexter	1
LESSER, Ezra	Dexter	1
LESSER, Gerhart	Dexter	1
RUHLIG, Emil A. & Sons	Dexter	1
WRIGHT, Elmer E.	Dexter	1

Freedom Township

Last, First	Address/Township	Rural Route Number
BIHLMEYER, Walter	Manchester	1
BREINING, Charles	Ann Arbor	4
BURMEISTER, George & Son	Ann Arbor	4
BUSS, Clarence	Chelsea	2
BUSS, Edw. R.	Ann Arbor	3
BUSS, Oscar	Ann Arbor	4
ESCHELBACH, Harold	Chelsea	2
GARTMAN, Brothers	Ann Arbor	3
GEBHARDT, Reinhold	Ann Arbor	3
GIRBACH, Simon	Ann Arbor	4
GROSS, Norman	Ann Arbor	3
HAAB, Bert	Ann Arbor	3
HAAB, Edwin	Ann Arbor	4
HAAB, George & Son	Ann Arbor	4
HIEBER, Edwin	Ann Arbor	4
HIEBER, Walter	Ann Arbor	4
HORNING, Gottlieb	Manchester	1
KRESS, Frank J. & Son	Manchester	1
KUHL, Alfred	Chelsea	2
KUHL, Theodore J.	Manchester	1
LUCKHART, Walter & Son	Ann Arbor	4
SCHAIBLE, Ernest	Ann Arbor	3
SCHAIBLE, Leon	Ann Arbor	4
SCHILLER, Ernest	Chelsea	2
SNYDER, K. R.	Manchester	1
STOCKWELL, Everrett	Manchester	1
STOLLSTEIMER, Art	Ann Arbor	4
WENP, Edgar E. [*sic*]	Ann Arbor	3
WIEDMEYER, Fred	Ann Arbor	4

ALVIN JAY PRATT FAMILY BIBLE RECORD

The Alvin Jay Pratt Bible record has been kindly donated to the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County by the Dexter Area Historical Society Museum, Dexter, Michigan. Ten pages of additional family records and obituaries, compiled by Mrs. Norma McAllister, were included with the donation. Those additional pages, as well as more extensive genealogy of the Pratt family, may be found in the family file at the museum in Dexter.

Holman's Edition. The Holy Bible, Containing the Old and New Testaments, Translated out of the Original Tongues, and with the Former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised; with the Apocrypha, Concordance and Psalms. Philadelphia: A. J. Holman & Co., 1878.

[*On the frontispiece*:]
Presented to Jennie I. Lyon by her Mother and Father Dec. 31st 1879 as a wedding gift

Marriages [*Marriage dates of the children of Alvin and Jennie Pratt were entered but the respective spouses were not named*.]
Alvin J. Pratt and Jennie I. Lyon Decr 31st 1879
George Jay Pratt March 30th 1905
Luella Delle Pratt June 26th 1907
John Emerson Pratt Feb 26th 1914
Mary Louise Pratt Jan 10th 1917
Alva Earl Pratt March 17th 1918 9 [*The number 9 is entered after 1918 as a later correction*.]
Reuben Henning Pratt May 27th1919
Marion Lewis Pratt Aug 13th 1921
Guy Edward Pratt Apr 7th 1923
Everett Ellis Pratt Apr 4th 1929

Births
Alvin J. Pratt Oct 2 1857
Jennie Ida Pratt Jany 3d 1860
George Jay Pratt Apl 1st 1883
Guy Edward Pratt Feby 12th 1885
Luella Delle Pratt Dec 18th 1886
John Emerson Pratt April 12th 1888
Alvin Earl Pratt August 2nd 1889
Infant son December 8th 1892
Everett Ellis Pratt July 1st 1893
Marion Lewis Pratt September 23rd 1894
Reuben Henning Pratt Nov 14th 1896
Infant daughter Jan 2nd 1898
Mary Louise Pratt Sep. 10th 1899

Deaths
Infant son December 9th 1892
Infant daughter Jan 3rd 1898
Alvin Jay Pratt Jan 26 1929
Jennie Ida Pratt October 14 1932
Guy Edward Pratt February 8 1950
Rubin Henning Pratt April 29 1955
Everett Ellis Pratt September 2 1956
Luella Dell Grayer December 16 1957
Marion Lewis Pratt November 14 1959
George J Pratt Feb 7 1964
Herman Grayer May 18 1966
John Pratt Aug 12 1966
Alvin Pratt June 18 1971
Bessie Pratt July 9 1974

[*The Bible record includes a marriage certificate page. Handwritten entries are underlined*.]
Marriage Certificate
This Certifies that Alvin J. Pratt and Jennie I. Lyon were solemnly united by me in Holy Bonds of Matrimony at Dexter on the Thirty First day of December in the year of our Lord one Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Nine. Conformably to the Ordinance of God and the laws of the state.
In Presence of: David Henning Mrs. Chas. Tripp
Signed: Jas. H. Magoffin Rector of St. James.

GSWC Bible Records Registry

IN MEMORIAM RETRO REPORT

By Joyce Mallory and Marcia McCrary

About 2017, Joyce Mallory and I began a project to identify former GSWC members who had passed away and find their obituaries. We searched the Washtenaw County death records and the Social Security Death index. Here is the first report from that project. There will be more.

Last	First	Birth Date	Death Date
ABENTROD	Roy	27-May-1930	26 Oct 2012
ADAMSON	Alberta R (BROWN)	8 May 1933	22-Apr-1987
ALEXANDER	Marguerite Anna (WALLACE)	19-May-1908	25-Oct-1999
ALEXANDER	W. E.	25-Jan-1912	13-Nov-2003
ALLEN	Phyllis (RALPH)	4-Mar-1908	24-Jun-2012
ALLISON	Ruth S. (SPURGEN)	4-Feb-1908	20-Apr-2001
ASELTINE	Arthur W.	24-Jan-1929	2-Sep-2007
ASELTIN	Marjorie E,	13-May-1923	5-Jul-2000
BARKMAN	Mary I. (HARTMAN)	10-Jan-1923	12-Jan-1995
BARSTOW	Roberta J.	2-Aug-1921	16-Sep-2002
BARTMAN	Fred L.	22-Jul-1919	26-Oct-2009
DAVIS	Newton	25-Apr-1924	18-Dec-1986
DEAKE	Ruth (FLEUELLING)	21-Aug-1922	6-Mar-2011
DISBROW	Dorothy (AUCOTT)	18-May-1920	26-Feb-1992
GOOD	Charles	17-Feb-1931	14-May-2000
KNAPP	Donald	31-Jul-1921	11-Apr-1985
KNIGHT	Mary Jo (FISHER)	23-Nov-1928	7-Jan-2018
MACK	Jane (KAYE)	13-Jun-1906	2-Jul-1980
McNAUGHTON	Richard	20-Feb-1916	18-Apr-2006
OXENGER	Charlotte (McLEAN)	24-Apr-1922	25-Dec-2001
PARISHO	Doris L. (SEETERS)	5-Dec-1929	10-Apr-1985
PEARSALL	Elizabeth. Mrs. A. G.	9-Mar-1923	26-May-1983
PUNNETT	Judy (WHITE)	13-Sep-1937	10-Dec-2003
REAUME	Franklyn	29-Apr-1917	30-Jan-1993
ROBINSON	Alma D. (MILLER)	2-May-1910	22-May-1992
ROBINSON	Richard M.	13-Aug-1912	1-Feb-1990
SCOTT	Marjorie (FEAR)	22-Feb-1912	19-Sep-2012
SMITH	Marie (ALLEN)	12-Sep-1912	2-Nov-2006
STEVENS	Florence Lucille	7-Nov-1917	13-Oct-2003
TAFINI	Sharlene (HICKMOTT)	13-Jul-1949	19-Feb-2000
THOMAS	Richard C.	6-Apr-1917	21-Nov-1988
WEBSTER	Marion “Peggy” (PALMER)	5-Mar-1920	6-Dec-2012
WILKINS	James “Tex”	25-Jun-1915	10-Jul-1991
ZOLKOWSKI	Billy	13-Jul-1918	27-May-2013

(*To Be Continued*)